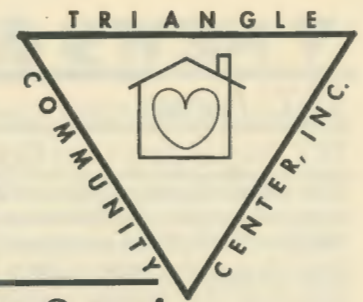


Triangle Community Center News & Views

Free to Members and Subscribers

Vol. 8, No. 7
July 1997

MANY HEARTS ♥♥♥ ONE COMMUNITY

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY - SHORT AND SWEET!

SAT, JULY 19 TCC Friendraiser - at John & Roland's in Bridgeport, 5-9pm. See article for details.

SUN, JULY 20 TCC Movie Night - "Johns" at the Sono Cinema in Norwalk, 7:30pm. See article for details.

TUE, JULY 29 Kite Flying - Veteran's Park, Norwalk. Meet at TCC at 7pm. See article for details.

For the latest update on What's Happening in the area check our TCC home page on the internet.
<http://members.aol.com/tccenter>

LIVING FREE IN NEW ENGLAND

The civil rights sweep of New England is now complete. All six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Add Hawaii, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia to the mix, and nearly one out of four people in the country live where discrimination based on sexual orientation is outlawed.

While extremists threaten to challenge Maine's civil rights law, remember it was only two years ago that Mainers out-organized the Right and defeated a vicious initiative that would have written gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals out of that state's constitution. New Hampshire not only passed its civil rights bill this year, but trounced a hostile anti-marriage bill that would have banned recognition of marriages performed in other states as well.

Rhode Island activists defeated a same-gender marriage ban. Hate crimes bills were introduced in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, strong efforts are underway to repeal the states' sodomy laws. Massachusetts is in a strong position to enact statewide domestic partner legislation, and Vermont can already boast of this accomplishment. Vermont has enacted more pro-gay legislation than any other state in the nation, leading Vermonters to say that theirs is the safest state in the country.

Sure, Northampton, Massachusetts remains the undisputed lesbian capital of the United States and Provincetown is our community's summer resort. And yes, the region is peppered with colleges and universities that are vibrant centers of youth organizing. But by no means was the work of New Englanders easy or complete. Connecticut and Rhode Island have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation. Massachusetts and Rhode Island still ban opposite and same-sex sodomy. Maine and New Hampshire ban same-gender marriage and these bans are still pending in legislatures in Connecticut and Vermont. New Hampshire bans adoption and foster care by gay men and lesbians. Legislatively, the region has miles to go on issues related to our families and our relationships.

Our New England sisters and brothers have a long history of organizing and all of us should pay attention. Look no further than the feat of activists in New Hampshire getting the Catholic Diocese of Manchester to support civil rights for gays. And they've taught us, we must be prepared to organize on a number of fronts at once. As we beat back the same-gender marriage bans or ballot measures (even if we've lost a fight already), we must keep our eyes on the prize. We can move forward comprehensive civil rights bills, repeal sodomy bans, pass hate crimes laws and build our communities at the same time. Each step provides important momentum in moving our communities forward to a place where there is freedom, dignity, and social justice for all.

This article was written by Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

July 1997

STRANGER THAN FICTION

MORMONS GO BALLISTIC!

Utah's Brigham City School Board met in an emergency session recently with the city council to consider allegations that the school district's youngest charges were being inculcated with a pro-gay ideology and same-sex marriage.

The issue arose after scores of Mormon parents complained that children in the kindergarten class at Brigham Elementary were being led in a game which mimicked same-sex marriages. At issue was the game "The Farmer in the Dell." The accused kindergarten teacher, explained: "The class is way over-balanced with girls. So when we play Farmer in the Dell, sometimes I let a girl go first, so that everybody gets a turn." The problem arises with the next line of the children's song: "the farmer takes a wife." The girl-farmer would often choose another little girl to join her in the circle as the "farmer's wife."

"This is just setting a bad example to our young and impressionable children," said Jared Day, whose child is in the class. "If you don't stand up for family values, this country is going to go right down the toilet," he declared. "It's upsetting the natural order of things," concurred Lisa Perkins. "It's like dragging those innocent children down into a ditch," said her husband.

At the extraordinary joint session of the School Board and the city council, over 200 parents and others showed up to voice concerns, and submit petitions with hundreds of names. "The farmer has to be a boy," said Mayor Tom Merrill. "A boy gets picked first. That's the way we always played the game, and that's the way it should be played."

The joint session of parents and school board concluded that regardless of class sex ratios, boys would be picked first. However, in the interests of fairness, the position of "the Cheese" would be reserved for a girl. At the end of the game, the children sing "The cheese stands alone. The cheese stands alone. Hi ho the dairy-O, the cheese stands alone." "That should be enough to make anyone happy," concluded the school board president.

NEWS & VIEWS

TCC NEWS

TCC NOMINATES MIKE COLLINS AS COMMUNITY LEADER

Each year the Stamford Advocate invites all the organizations in the area to nominate a person to be chosen as "Community Leader of the Year." This year the TCC has nominated Michael Collins.

Mike has served the TCC for four years as volunteer publicity director, publicizing TCC activities to local and regional media outlets, ranging from weekly rap groups at the Center to major events like last year's full-scale production of "Whoop-Dee-Do!"

In the real world, Mike earns his living as general manager of Quinnipiac College radio station WQUN. But he also finds time for many other activities besides the TCC. He is broadcast historian for the Connecticut Broadcaster's Association; and he has provided publicity for many other lesbian and gay-friendly organizations and events, including the National Women's Softball Tournament in Stratford, the New Haven Gay/Lesbian Community Center, Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus, Bread & Roses AIDS residence, CT Chapter of Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Brookfield Committee for the Defense of Tolerance in the Classroom, and "In The Life" the regional gay/lesbian cable program. Mike was as instrumental in persuading WNÉT channel 13 to sponsor PBS' gay/lesbian series "Forward and Out".

In our statement nominating Mike for the award, TCC said the following:

"The best weapon gay people have against the fear and ignorance that breeds homophobia is information. We therefore nominate Michael Collins, who has dedicated his skills as journalist and publicist to promoting tolerance for gays and lesbians at a grass roots level.

"He regularly invites local political leaders to attend events sponsored by local gay/lesbian organizations, so they may meet gay people, learn of their concerns first hand, and realize there is a thriving gay/lesbian community within their constituency.

"As an openly gay journalist, Mike's goal is to see the word 'gay' be a normal part of not just the big metropolitan dailies but every small daily and weekly paper in Fairfield County. As volunteer publicity director for the Triangle Community Center and other lesbian and gay organizations, he has done more than any other individual to bring awareness of gay and lesbian people into every home in our area."

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

I have always thought that June was like a second Christmas for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered peoples. First you have the intense anticipation of celebrating gay pride, then you have the wonder and surprise as the "wrapping paper" comes off in peoples lives; and finally you have the presents (or should I say the presence).

Well, now that June has come and gone and we celebrate the freedoms and fireworks of July, I am pleased to announce we have new presence (or should I say presents) on the Board of Directors at TCC. Three proud and dedicated people have come forth to serve their community as members of TCC's Board. I must admit it an answer to prayer; thank you!!!

Christine B. is a relatively new member to the center but has already immersed herself in the centers activities. She brings with her professional experience in the educational field, a "get it done" attitude, and a distaste for mutual exclusivity.

Denyse Burke is "getting back to her roots" having moved back to lower Fairfield county after a 4-year stint in Hartford. She is currently a facilitator of the women's rap group and has previously worked for CT Business Guild and as a photographer for Metroline.

John Wallace brings a strong legal experience and a quiet "good judgment" to round out TCC's Board to eight. He is currently a facilitator of the men's rap group and has achieved a policy change at work for gay employees. He was also successful in achieving a major donation for TCC's production of "Whoop-De-Do."

I truly believe we are on a roll. If you have gifts to offer the Triangle Community Center please come forth and volunteer. You don't have to join the Board, try a committee, write an article for News & Views, network to raise membership. *Make a difference.* The presence you make will inevitably end up as a gift to yourself. —Don Buxton;- President

N&V ARCHIVES AVAILABLE IN REFERENCE ROOM

Do you remember when... The TCC News & Views had cartoons? ...was printed on lavender paper? ...identified board members only by their first names? Do you remember when we met at Brook House on North Avenue? ... when we had regular fundraisers at the Norwalk Inn and sponsored annual dinner cruises on the "Mr. Lucky?" ... when Jim Papp became TCC president and we ran his picture on the front page? ... when we proudly moved into our present space on Van Zant Street? ... when we stopped having financial crises and started having volunteer crises? ... when we ran a post-gay-pride issue with photos of members from the NYC parade? ... when we had the first "Time-out" picnic? ...when we sponsored a full scale production of "Whoop-Dee-Do!"

For a trip down memory lane for the veterans, or a fascinating look back at the history of TCC for newcomers, we now have a (nearly) complete loose-leaf-bound set of back copies of TCC News & Views, from 1992 to the present, in the TCC Reference Room.

Editor emeritus Roger Hooverman has compiled and donated his archives, and those passed on to him by previous editor Martin Ulmer. They are bound in loose-leaf notebooks, so the collection will be easy to keep up to date. Stop by and browse, and see how we've changed over the years.

LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Come and meet with us on Tuesday, July 29 at 7 PM at the Center. Bring a kite. We'll be walking to Veterans Park in Norwalk (3 mins. with the short cut) to fly kites. Refreshments will follow. Kites are available at Noodle Kidoodle and other children's toy stores.

—M. Seggerman

LESBIAN LIT GROUP

The reading choice for discussion at the August 5 meeting of the Lesbian Literature Group is entitled, "The Intersection of Law and Desire (A Mickey Knight Mystery)," written by J.M. Redmann and published by Norton Press. This new mystery is an unbeatable combination of high-stakes thriller and believable love story.

The Lit Group meets at the Center the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Copies of "Intersection..." are available at Bloodroot (203) 576-9168. For more info on the group call Christine (203) 847-8476.

JULY FRIENDRAISER

SAT, JULY 19, 5-9 PM AT JOHN & ROLAND'S

This month's Friendraiser will be held on Saturday, July 19th, from 5 to 9 P M at John and Roland's home, Building 50, Unit 371, on Court D in Success Park, Bridgeport. Weather permitting, this Friendraiser will be a cook-out with hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, Italian sausage, beer and soda. The usual donation will be requested: TCC members \$8, non-members \$10.

DIRECTIONS: Via I-95, take Exit 27A to the Route 8/25 Connector. Take exit 5, North Avenue/Boston Avenue. Turn left at the end of the exit and follow Boston Avenue about two miles. At the 8th traffic light (Success Avenue, just past a CVS store) take a left. Proceed past two stop signs to a row of stores on the right. Turn LEFT into Court D, directly opposite Success Market. Park. Building 50, Unit 371 is the third building on the right, the end unit. Lost? Call 334-3822.

TCC MOVIE NIGHT

After a short hiatus, TCC Movie Night at Sono Cinema in Norwalk will return on Sunday, July 20th at 7:30 P. M. The film "Johns" will be featured this month. "Johns" is a tough minded study of LA street hustlers. Like "Midnight Cowboy," "Johns" explores the theme of friendship in a dog-eat-dog world. Hollywood's hot up-and-coming new star, Luke Hass, plays the role of Donnor, a hustler offering unstinting devotion to his straight mentor, John. John played by David Arguette, insists that friendship among hustlers is impossible. The film's plot revolves around John's plans to create a spectacular 21st birthday for himself.

Dessert and coffee will be served after the film. So come on out and see some old friends and get some culture! Admission is \$10. For more information call Ed Hatton at (203) 855-9375.

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

CONNECTICUT NEWS

BROOKFIELD - TRIANGLES STILL AT HIGH SCHOOL

The small, round stickers with pink triangles inscribed on them can still be found on the doors of some Brookfield High School classrooms. These rooms, designated as a compassionate place for students with questions about their sexuality, can still be found.

When the Board of Education voted earlier this spring against supporting the pink triangle sticker and the accompanying safe zones, the vote was seen as a change in policy. So far, however, things have stayed the same. "The board wants to look at this more. That's the message," said Superintendent David Bristol.

Safe zones designate "safe" classrooms, marked with pink triangles, where students can talk about their sexuality with nonjudgmental teachers. On April 30, after controversy continued over the policy, the school board voted 3-3, with one abstention, on a motion to support the safe zones, putting the future of the zones into question.

BROOKFIELD - STUDENT WRITES ABOUT SAFE ZONES

As a 10th-grade student at Brookfield High School, I am concerned about the depths to which our town had plunged. The Board of Education voted 3-3 to reaffirm support for the Safe Zones program at Brookfield High. As a result (of the tie), the support for the program was denied.

The board members have handled the situation horribly and unprofessionally. Barbara Topf Uziel.... said that some board members, "have not and will not hear anything contrary to their beliefs." This is an unfortunate truth that has disappointed a multitude of people.... It seems to me that (four) of the board members have forgotten that they represent BHS. The Board of Education....governs the students, and it's about time they remembered we are directly affected by what they do....

I am disgusted and disappointed that there was even one vote against the Safe Zones. Warren Lundquist, a former BHS student..., told the board the Safe Zones stopped him from killing himself, yet four board members either ignored him or do not value a proven life-saving program. It is hard for me to imagine that the people who make the most crucial decisions about my school do not think the Safe Zones are appropriate after someone was honest enough to tell them that the Safe Zones saved his life.

Board member Reinen did not vote on the Safe Zones. He said at the meeting that he was threatened about his vote. If he is using this to hide behind, it is time he thought about the people who would be threatened every day without a nonjudgmental ear to hear what they have to say....

The (board's) "no" decision wasn't just to the Safe Zones,....it was a "no" to helping other people, a "no" to tolerance and acceptance, a "no" to preparation and reality, and finally a "no" to humanity.

Written by Jeff Baird and reprinted from the News-Times, June 13, 1997.

HARTFORD - STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES BILL PROTECTING LGBT YOUTH

With an hour and a half left in the regular Connecticut legislative session, the House of Representatives passed a comprehensive education bill that includes protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation for youth in K-12 in public schools. The vote passed by 96 to 48 and fell primarily along party lines with the Democrats giving support to the bill which included many other provisions not related to sexual orientation. The bill had passed the Senate with a compromise amendment pushed by the CT Catholic Conference, which states that the new anti-discrimination statute does not amend other existing statutes regarding curriculum, extra curricular activities or facilities. Lobbyists and lawyers working on behalf of the lesbian and gay community feel confident that the narrowly drafted compromise will not limit the ability of students to bring complaints regarding discrimination even if they involve these areas.

The Senate defeated an amendment that would have overturned a CT Supreme Court decision restricting military recruitment on state college campuses.

HARTFORD - 1199 BECOMES FIRST LABOR UNION TO ENDORSE CT PRIDE DAY

District 1199, New England Health Care Employees Union, AFL-CIO, became the first labor union to officially endorse this year's Connecticut Pride Day held last June 21st in Hartford. The 19,000-member union's Executive Board voted unanimously to endorse the Pride Parade and Festival and an official delegation of 1199 members and staff marched in the parade, waving the union's Solidarity banners and carrying signs that read "1199 Says No To Racism, Sexism, Homophobia". The Hartford based union represents State healthcare workers in Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Corrections, and Children & Family Services, as well as private healthcare workers in nursing homes, hospitals, and facilities for the mentally retarded and mentally ill.
— John Del Vecchio

MARLBOROUGH - 14TH ANNUAL WOMENS MUSICAL RETREAT

The North East Women's Retreat will take place on Labor Day weekend, August 29 - Sept. 1, in Marlborough, CT. Performers include Alix Dobkin, Jamie Anderson, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Faith Nolan, Cyd Slotoroff & Bobbi Blake, ASE, Vicki Shaw, Destiny, and more! There will also be crafts, swimming, workshops, and games.

Camping prices are \$175.00 for the weekend. Cabins are \$195.00. Children prices are lower. Personal checks will not be accepted after August 1. After that date only bank checks or money orders will be accepted.

For registration information and complete informational brochure, send a legal-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NEWMR, P.O. 597, Branford, CT 06405 or call: (860) 293-8026.

WESTPORT - EQUESTRIAN PROSE AT BARNES & NOBLE

"It's an American horse racing tragedy," says poet and OUT contributor Michael Klein, whose memoir, "Track Conditions," was published by Persea in April. He's talking about the story of Swale, the Kentucky Derby-winning colt who died mysteriously in 1984, just after Klein, Swale's groom, was fired for creating a drunken ruckus at Pimlico Race Track in Baltimore. Although Swale's story is now part of the annals of horse racing, it's also crucial to Klein's personal history, which is memorably limned in his harrowing book. Indeed, just when you thought gay literature had been strip-mined of all possible subjects, Klein steps in with horse racing as both a distinctive backdrop and a bold metaphor for the vicissitudes of a gay man's life.

"I was a walking wreck when Swale died," says Klein, 42. "But that's how I got sober. It was the first death in my life that alcohol couldn't blunt." In the past, alcohol had dulled the pain of Klein's adolescent sex with a physically abusive stepfather, a mother's questionable death, and a thwarted love affair. "I got sober at the perfect time," says Klein, the author of a book of poetry and editor of three anthologies of AIDS writing.
—James Ireland Baker

Michael Klein will be reading from and signing copies of his book on Thursday, July 24 at 7:00 PM at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 1076 Post Rd East, Westport.

CONGRADULATIONS!

Best wishes to Rosey Apuzzo and Debi DeSanti on their June 14th Commitment Ceremony. The ceremony, held at Pardee Rose Garden, was performed by the minister Cynthia Prescott, of the Hamden Unitarian Church.

The couple first met on Columbus Day, 1996 at the Diezel Coffeehouse in New Haven, and from that moment on felt complete!

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

STATE BY STATE

CA - LONG BEACH LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE PARADE

Over 76,000 people turned out for the 14th annual Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. This year the parade had more to do with community than with homosexuality.

Yes, there were lesbians on Harleys, but they were outnumbered by fellow parade walkers from local churches who waved to the crowd. The two-hour parade included floats and walkers from community businesses, churches and nonprofit gay and lesbian organizations. A thunder of cheers and applause arose from the thicket of onlookers for the Christ Chapel's Food Bank marchers whose tireless work has helped to ensure that HIV-positive women, men and children of Long Beach don't go hungry.

The parade was an eye-opener for first-time attendees who were surprised by the vast number of organizations operating within the local gay community. Parade officials said they added 40 more entries this year including three companies, McDonnell Douglas, Disney and Kaiser Permanente, represented by their gay and lesbian workers.

CA - LA SCHOOL BOARD EXTENDS BENEFITS

After a contentious debate, a divided Los Angeles school board voted to extend health benefits to the domestic partners of unmarried employees. The proposal, approved on a 5-2 vote, was designed to grant equal benefits to homosexual employees of the Los Angeles Unified School District who are prevented by law from marrying their partners.

CO - GOVERNOR VETOES MARRIAGE BAN

Gov. Roy Romer again vetoed a bill aimed at outlawing gay marriages, calling it "fundamentally negative and divisive." Romer vetoed a similar ban last year, saying it had an element of "gay bashing." Backers tried to draw up a bill he could sign, but, he rejected their effort on technical and general grounds.

DC - PRIDE PARADE

A school bus full of teachers and a marching phalanx of proud parents won the hearts of many onlookers and the loudest applause during Washington's 22nd annual gay pride festival. The crowd clapped long and hard and nudged one another to point out the signs that said "All children are treasures" and "Traditional families have gay children too." The parade culminated a week of gatherings and events for the community.

The parents, members of The Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, are old timers to the parade but the teachers, members of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network of Metropolitan D.C., were making their first parade appearance.

The parade included about 150 groups, floats and individuals — more than ever before. Gay couples were everywhere. As in past years, dozens of men in drag presided from floats, and others marched in leather and chains or promenaded as sequined drum majorettes. But they seemed outnumbered by parade participants who represented much less exotic segments of the gay community: rowing clubs and swimming groups, churches, a choir, outdoor activity clubs, federal employees.

FL - GAY DAYS AT DISNEY

Gay Days has been an annual event at Walt Disney World since 1991, when a group called Digital Queers — a few hundred Orlando area gays who communicated through computer bulletin boards — chose Disney World as a place to meet face to face. This year, the three-day event swelled to include about 60,000 homosexual visitors, according to travel agents' estimates.

The American Family Association and the Assemblies of God Church have launched boycotts of Disney for what they call its effort to mainstream gay and lesbian lifestyles. But such censure has done nothing to deter business. Universal Studios Florida and Sea World, two other theme parks near Orlando, hosted their own Gay Days events this year.

FL - NEWSPAPER EXTENDS BENEFITS

The St. Petersburg Times has joined a growing list of companies that have decided to offer health insurance to domestic partners of gay employees.

Other companies have also come to that conclusion, including some big names, like IBM, Walt Disney Co., Levi Strauss, and the Tampa-based Holland & Knight law firm. Other newspapers, including the New York Times, the Boston Globe and the Seattle Times, also offer the benefit. Some local governments have also begun to offer insurance to same-sex partners, including the cities of New York, San Francisco and Chicago.

Companies that have added the benefit have not experienced much, if any additional costs, primarily because gay couples don't, traditionally, have children. Maternity costs continue to be the most expensive component of health insurance. Also, many gay couples do not choose to take advantage of the extra insurance, perhaps because each partner has individual health insurance, or because the Internal Revenue Service requires the employee to pay taxes on the benefits.

IA - SIX CARE CENTER WORKERS ARE FIRED

A Davenport care center manager has fired six employees because he said they were homosexual and do not have acceptable "moral character." "When I first came here, there was probably at least three — excuse my French — faggots working here and I had at least three dykes working here," said Roger Crow, administrator of St. Katharine's Living Center. "And when I first came here it was, like, these people are gone . . . This isn't the kind of atmosphere that I want to project when a client or family member comes to my nurses station and sees a 45-year-old faggot that has got better skin than you and I and is a man but presents itself more like a woman."

Even though the privately-owned 110-bed residential facility for the mentally ill receives more than \$600,000 annually in state money, officials have failed to act because there is no provision in Iowa law protecting homosexuals from being singled out for discrimination in the workplace.

The U.S. attorney's office in Des Moines was notified of the firings. "But it's very unlikely we would have any jurisdiction," said Al Overbaugh of the U.S. attorney's office. "Sexual orientation is not a protected right under federal law. If it involved race or age, that would be a different matter."

LA - HEALTH BENEFITS

In New Orleans, Mayor Marc Morial announced that the city would provide health insurance for the domestic partners of its gay employees. Officials say they expect about 1% of 6,400 city employees to use the coverage.

MA - GAY YOUTH MARCH

Schools throughout the state are taking steps to end homophobia in their student body under a state mandate to make schools safe for all students, according to administrators and teachers.

In May, teens led two thousand adults and youths on the third annual Gay/Straight Youth Pride March in Boston. It is said to be the only such march in the nation. With both cheers and jeers from onlookers, the group marched to mark the creation of more than 100 gay/straight alliances in the state's schools.

"It would have been unthinkable to have a march like this five years ago," said David LaFontaine, chair of Governor William F. Weld's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, which sponsors the alliances.

The effort is important, LaFontaine said, because gay, lesbian, and bisexual students are four times more likely to attempt suicide, five times more likely to miss school because of feeling unsafe, and nearly five times more likely to use cocaine, according to a state Department of Education study released yesterday.

MN - STATE PASSES GAY MARRIAGE PROHIBITION

A new state law signed by Gov. Arne Carlson bans gay marriages in Minnesota and denies recognition of gay marriages performed in other states. Minnesota is now the 15th state to ban gay marriages.

MT - GAYS TAKE TO STREETS IN PRIDE! PARADE

Despite earlier threats and countless letters of anguish to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle opposing a Pride! parade down Main Street, the June 8 event went off largely without a sour note. No hecklers, no shouting and no fights.

About 300 gays, lesbians, bisexuals, their families, friends and pets marched to the Emerson Cultural Center. Onlookers, perhaps several hundred of them, lined the entire parade route. Many clapped as the colorful procession, about three blocks long, passed by.

The next day in the city's gym, five same-sex couples were "married," by two ministers. It was the first mass public same-sex wedding in the state.

The 150 guests that were in attendance clapped after each couple declared their love and exchanged their vows. Afterward, representatives from local religious congregations — from the Jewish, Congregational, Quaker and Unitarian-Universalist faiths — came forward to publicly affirm the relationships.

The law prohibits same-sex marriages in Montana, but because these commitments do not have the sanction of law and carry no legal benefits of marriage, the couples are not breaking the law.

NC - GODS AND GODDESSES

Organizers of Raleigh's annual Artsplasure consider their festival family-oriented fun. The choice for this year's festival logo was a portrait of the Greek goddess Persephone who is said to be the embodiment of spring.

The task of designing the logo went to artist, Louis St. Lewis, who decided it would be, "fun to play gender-bender with the strait-laced, puritanical city of Raleigh." After his portrait of the goddess was displayed all over the city St. Lewis revealed that the image was actually a portrait of himself adorned in flowers, feathers and makeup.

NM - LESBIAN GROUP ADOPTS A HIGHWAY

You've seen the signs along highways, promoting organizations that have "adopted" a stretch of road and promised to keep it free of litter. Well, Lesbians for Change, an Albuquerque group adopted a one-mile stretch of Interstate 40 last November. "We are part of the community and want to do what other organizations do," said Sonia Bettez of Lesbians for Change.

Angry motorists have called or written highway officials in Santa Fe, including Gov. Gary Johnson. He explained that the highway department puts up the signs for civic minded groups that promise to clean up highway litter at least twice a year. "As a state agency we can't discriminate against any organization," he said. And, he added that, "Lesbians for Change have been one of the better groups in doing cleanups."

RI - EDUCATION DEPARTMENT POLICY ON GAYS & LESBIANS

The Rhode Island Department of Education's Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education recently stated that all people and groups should have full access to educational opportunities and full participation in educational experiences. Barriers to student participation which are based on sexual orientation must be identified and removed.

Students, because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, should not be subject to discrimination through abuse, harassment, or exclusion from full participation in educational activities. The Board said that all students, without exception, have the right to come to school and feel safe.

Local school districts were urged to review programs, services and activities to assure that such offerings are conducted in a manner that is free of inadvertent or intentional bias. Each local school district is also urged to prohibit harassment based on sexual orientation through the development and enforcement of appropriate student and staff behavior and disciplinary policies.

WA - DOMESTIC BENEFITS EXTENDED

When the city council OK'ed domestic partners benefits, Tumwater, Washington became the smallest city in the United States to grant benefits to domestic partners of its employees. The council of the 11,700-person city voted in favor of an ordinance that will give partners of gay and lesbian employees, along with unmarried heterosexual partners, the same benefits as the spouses of heterosexual employees. Employees will have to sign affidavits that they are in long-term, committed relationships before their partners get benefits.

NICHOLS AVE. CEMETERY AKA ST. JOHNS

Demovick, Zelinski, Hovan and Pollock

Orthodox crosses, old carved and new polished headstones

rusting Jesus' on iron crosses

yellow primroses for baby Shiroky

Mother Mary blesses the Bilchaks

and the archangel looks pleadingly skyward

for the Skirkanich war vet, John and

his wife Margaret C.

violet glass or is it plastic protects a fading

photograph of Stephan Homko December'22

left over Easter crosses made from rushes

bravely holds their ground on this wind whipped hill

i'm not usually taken to stroll in strange graveyards

the bittersweet sadness of these lives marked by stone

washes over me

and i wonder how long it's been since i sat

by my Father's, Grandmother's, Mom's and aunt's graves

bronze plaques all,

and brushed away the dead grass blades

bringing them fresh flowers, news of my life

and prayers for their love and guidance

the answer.....

too long

jdm 5/16/97(justine d. Michaud)

[Ed Note: Did you know that Justine went to Hollywood High? She graduated from UC Irvine with a BS in Biological Sciences and her first real job was in research with a pharmaceutical company. She & her partner Meg moved to Stratford in 1983.]

WOMEN WANTED

Looking for women in trades/professions to start a Womens Trade/Professional Services Directory.

Women need to network their talents so that when a sister thinks her lights are possessed because they keep blinking on and off, she can call a sister electrician or when a pipe in the basement decides to bust she can call a sister plumber. If she feels water from the roof falling on her as she sleeps, a sister carpenter can come to the rescue. She can feel safe with a tradeswomen working in her house, condo or apartment. The Directory might also list referrals for legal advice, medical problems, and even financial needs.

If you would be interested in being listed in this directory, please send your name, address, phone number and trade or profession to the following address:

Penny Lu Bowen - 150 Palamar Drive - Fairfield, CT 06432
(203) 372-6965

TRIVIA QUESTION

Answer to June's Trivia Contest will be announced in August.

Question for July - Which openly gay columnist for the New York Times occasionally becomes, in his column, a person from Brooklyn asking a lot of questions?

NATIONAL NEWS

GAY DOLL FINDS FANS AND FOES

Billy is blond with sky blue eyes. His ripped abs and muscular body are eye-catching. He's got smooth skin, kissable lips, a killer smile, and he's anatomically correct, to say the least. Move over Ken, there's a new man on the block. At 13 inches tall and made of a plastic, he's the first out and proud gay doll.

The doll was born in 1994 at an AIDS benefit in London. Then a limited edition of just 1,200 dolls, Billy sold for \$275 each. Two years later, the company (The Pride Factory in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) decided it wanted to mass produce Billy and headed to New York to launch the project.

From Key West to New York to San Francisco, Billy is becoming a best seller. He's catching on in Europe and Japan, where he is just beginning to be marketed by New York-based Totem International. Since being introduced last March, Billy has been a fast seller. At \$49.95 each, more than 25,000 have been sold since they hit store shelves.

Billy had his first "coming out" party at a hip gay club on South Beach, Fla. last month. Hundreds turned out to see buff strippers who started out dressed like Billy. The monthly party heads next to Fire Island, N.Y., and Provincetown, Mass.

There are four Billy varieties on store shelves now, with plans for a doll clothing line. San Francisco Billy, clad in black cut-off shorts, a white T-shirt and a plaid hooded vest is a popular one. There's also Cowboy Billy, dressed in a red and white shirt unbuttoned to his waist with a matching handkerchief around his neck, blue jeans and a cowboy hat. Master Billy, the first to sell out on South Beach, wears a black leather vest, a leather harness, no shirt, tight black leather pants and a biker's hat. Lastly, there's Sailor Billy wears a white sailor's hat, a blue striped shirt with an anchor on it and white button-down bell bottoms.

Two limited edition Billys, Leather Billy and Wall Street Billy, are on the way along with two more members of the "alternative family of dolls." All that is known about the two new dolls is that they will hit the stores in August and that one is male and the other is female.

DNC GIVES HEALTH BENEFITS TO GAY COUPLES

Following in the footsteps of many top American companies, the Democratic National Committee announced that it would offer same-sex partners the same health benefits available to spouses of its employees.

Single-sex marriage has not been legalized, so such benefit offerings are not required by law. Nevertheless, approximately 500 companies, including Microsoft, International Business Machines Corp., Walt Disney Co., Apple Computer and Time-Warner, offer health benefits to domestic partners of their employees. In addition, numerous cities, counties and universities offer similar programs.

The committee's new benefits policy will cover single-sex partners of its 150 employees and will take effect on July 3. Single-sex couples must have lived together for 12 consecutive months before being eligible for these benefits. How domestic partnership will be verified has not been decided yet.

PRESBYTERIANS TO VOTE ON "CHASTITY" AMENDMENT

Gay and lesbian rights supporters in the Presbyterian church (USA) are offering a compromise to a proposal that essentially barred homosexuals from Presbyterian pulpits. "It's a small, incremental step, a move towards reconciliation because the church is up in arms," said the Rev. Laurene Lafontaine of Denver. "It doesn't have the prohibitive nature that Amendment B has. It makes it more tolerable," said Lafontaine, moderator of a denomination called Presbyterians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns.

The compromise to what is known as Amendment B adds the words "and all relationships of life" to that Amendment B provision. Amendment B, or the "fidelity and chastity" amendment, was passed at last year's national convention. It was narrowly approved by the denomination's regional bodies, called presbyteries, winning 50.6 percent of the votes.

The amendment to the church's constitution has been criticized as a thinly veiled attempt to keep gays and lesbians from ordained positions. Although it does not name gays and lesbians, it includes a provision that the only acceptable sexual expression for ordained persons is between a man and a woman within the context of marriage, or "chastity in singleness."

More than 20 congregations across the country have voted to disregard the new rule, which would take effect immediately unless the compromise is approved. Even if the agreement is accepted, it would still have to go to a vote before the denomination presbyteries.

AIDS DRUGS INCREASE RISK OF DIABETES

The government warned doctors yesterday that thousands of patients taking the powerful new AIDS drugs called protease inhibitors should be closely watched for an unexpected side effect: diabetes. In letters nationwide, the Food and Drug Administration stressed that the estimated 150,000 Americans taking protease inhibitors should not stop, because the diabetes risk appears fairly small.

But the FDA, investigating after complaints from pioneering AIDS researcher Dr. Michael Gottlieb and from Japan's drug regulators, discovered 83 patients who contracted diabetes or high blood sugar - or had those diseases suddenly worsen - after they began taking protease inhibitors. Six cases were life-threatening, and 21 other patients needed hospitalization.

The FDA called the cases disturbing enough that it is relabeling all four protease inhibitors now sold in the United States to warn about the potential side effect. And the agency urged patients yesterday to immediately report to a doctor such symptoms as increased thirst, unexplained weight loss, increased urination, fatigue and dry, itchy skin.

As many as 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 100 patients who take protease inhibitors may be at risk, said FDA medical officer Dr. Jeff Murray. Many of those may be treated for diabetes successfully without stopping their AIDS therapy, he said. But half of the 83 patients discovered so far had to quit taking protease inhibitors, which have revolutionized AIDS care in the last year.

TRANSGENDERED DISUNIVERSE

If you're transgendered, you live in a world I like to call the disuniverse, because compared to the outside world, it's a disunited, inverse universe. Our disunity comes from the contention that arises from the over-importance we transgendered people place on our myriad differences. Over time, these differences have become walls that keep the different out of our respective spaces. Some of these finding-fault lines occur between crossdressers and transsexuals; gay, bisexual and straight people; out and closeted folks; white and nonwhite; those economically privileged and those who are not; and M2Fs and F2Ms. These differences wreck havoc on our fledgling attempts to build a real community and to organize a political movement for it. Thus far, we have chosen to view those friendships, cliques, conventions and organizations which dominate the social and political landscape as the transgendered "community". However, in reality we manage to break most of the most widely accepted rules for what constitutes a true community.

The inverse nature of our disuniverse comes from some things that are backward with us. Here the M2Fs, the women, rule the roost. We have used our born-male privilege and the perks that come with it, like access to education, training and "old boy networks", to gain positions of economic power. We run almost all of the support groups, control six out of seven of the largest national organizations (FTM International is the lone exception) and thus decide how the bulk of the money is spent and how resources are allocated. Most of us M2Fs subconsciously cling to our former male privilege and act accordingly, out of some superior sense of entitlement. That is what drives feminist women crazy when unthinking transsexual women, unaware of this antagonism, enter their space.

And it also disturbs many, if not most, of the transgendered men, the F2Ms. The transmen have been underground for many years for various reasons, and only recently are they coming out in any significant numbers. Almost all of them come from the lesbian community, so unlike the mostly heterosexual M2Fs they bring an initial queer identity with them when they come out as transgendered. Moreover, most of them are feminist and thus have great difficulty dealing with the entrenched male privilege they find, especially that of M2F

FOUR SUMMER STEALS

leaders at all levels of the transgendered community. Although F2Ms are usually welcomed by M2F leaders at the meetings and conventions of the national organizations, there has been a perception by many F2Ms that an overall unwillingness exists on the part of M2F leaders to share power equally with them.

In keeping with the inverse nature of the transgendered community, its the transmen who have custody of their children, and thus have to deal with the myriad concerns of child care and day care in order to work, on top of being transgendered. Almost all F2Ms come from economic positions of less than, since they have lived most of their lives without born-male privilege. Since it is still harder for women to be accepted in many traditional male occupations, most F2Ms have not had access to training in these fields and have not acquired the skills to do high-paying, traditionally male jobs. Without a male socialization experience from birth, all of them lack entry points into established old boy networks. Indeed, the reddest herring in the F2M community is that transmen are suddenly blessed with instant economic privilege the moment they transition, when in truth, it takes a lifetime to gain it. And a poorer economic status has serious consequences for the transmen who want surgery, because it is much more expensive than M2F surgery, with much less satisfying results.

If what you're reading surprises you, its probably because you personally don't know any transmen, because most of them don't come to our M2F support group meetings. Why? Well, its not that we're unfriendly (sometimes, we're too friendly). Some transmen do go to MAGIC meetings for their family issues, and even TGEA has seen a few stone butches or F2M crossdressers. A few of us have some good friends in the F2M community, and some of the guys like to come to our meetings as a social event, but not enough.

This article was written by listwrangler@netgsi.com & appeared in the connecticut View newsletter. Members of cT View invites F2M TV's to join them. For a complimentary newsletter, club information and membership form write to: the connecticut View, P.O. Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460 or e-mail to: MasonD@aol.com.

This summer, scores of queers whose Palm Springs and Key West tans are starting to fade will head for traditional summer resorts. They're also paying top dollar and scrambling for available rooms. But savvy gays and lesbians can find pleasurable vacations at bargain prices in destinations commonly thought of as winter-only. The next time you're sweltering inside your Detroit or Washington, DC, apartment, longing for an affordable getaway, consider Key West, New Orleans, Palm Springs, or even Tuscon.

Year-round Key Westers, known locally as "Conchs," (rhymes with "wonks") understand the summer pleasures of their remote island in the Caribbean. This is when tourism falls off, a few businesses go on hiatus, and the town takes on a low-key mood. The mercury rarely tops 90 degrees, and sea breezes temper the warmest days. The sea is crystal clear, the water temperature mild; snorkelers and scuba divers consider this the best time to explore underwater Key West. Ask many tourists why they never visit in summer, and they'll argue that Florida is strictly a winter destination. Think again.

Most of the island's gay guesthouses stay open year-round, many slashing their rates by 30 to 50 percent. One of the most popular men's compounds, the Oasis, charges \$99 to \$135 nightly off-season, compared with \$159 to \$189 in winter. The elegant Brass Key, popular with both gay men and lesbians, has rooms starting at just \$69 in summer - about half off. Like other resorts off-season, Key West mellows considerably; it's ideal for couples or travelers in search of solitude. Most bars and restaurants remain open, and dinner reservations are easy to come by. One final note: Florida's hurricane season runs from about August until early November, making a trip here slightly risky at this time. Key West, however, hasn't (knock on wood) been slammed by a severe storm in many years.

Sultry New Orleans is another destination most tourists favor in winter. Indeed, the Big Easy's fabulous February-March Mardi Gras is one of the wildest - and gayest - festivals in the world. In summer, tourism drops and the heat index (temperature factored with relative humidity) shoots up to a swampy 115 degrees. Scary. But if you're a bargain hunter, you may want to give it a go. Most gay-popular accommodations cut their rates by \$20 or \$30 nightly; two of the most elegant inns in the French Quarter, the Lafitte House and the Ursuline Guest House, offer inviting off-season deals. Furthermore, the city is by no means desolate, as conventioners invade the city all summer, keeping the restaurants and bars abuzz with activity (and scads of cute women and men). Keep in mind, however, that around Labor Day New Orleans celebrates its second-queerest event, Southern Decadence - an enchantingly sin-filled extravaganza, but a time when room rates soar. On the chance that hot humid weather gives you the creeps, New Orleans does experience one other mini "low season," which begins just after Thanksgiving and lasts til about the third week in December. The weather is usually balmy and sunny at this time, and many guest houses again dip their rates, especially on weekdays.

Unless you're a die-hard heat addict, the lowest rates in the world may not lure you to Palm Springs in the dead of summer. Late September and October, however, is relatively cooler and still very affordable. The thermometer usually remains in the low 90s - it's a dry heat, as locals are fond of saying, and that low humidity truly does help.

OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bare & Gay (B&G) gay nudists	(860) 644-4305
Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt	(203) 264-5605
Chiltern Mountain Club	(203) 899-0270
Connecticut Kids and Families	(203) 256-8414
Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition	(203) 791-9553
40-Up Club. (Social Grp.-call Dale before 10pm)	(203) 261-4019
Gay Fathers Group	(203) 866-7051
Gay Mens Association of Danbury	(203) 778-7016
GEMS (Mature GLBT)	(860) 688-1881
GuideLine (gay/lesbian phone info)	(203) 366-3734
Hartford Community Center	(203) 724 5542
Married Men's Bisexual Suppt Grp Htfd	(203) 262-1555
Metropolitan Community Church	(203) 389-6750
The Loft, White Plains NY,	(914) 948-4922
Triangle Bowling League	(203) 931-8789
Triangle Kids	(203) 255-6229
	(203) 323-6278
Western Connecticut Gay Men's Group	(203) 773-9947

We're glad to list your non-profit gay/lesbian/bi/tg group free of charge. Call (203) 964-1133. Please keep us informed of changes.

Most of the community's gay resorts don't raise their rates until November 1, meaning discounts from 25 to 50 percent prevail. Consider the acclaimed Hacienda en Sueno, whose rooms start at \$125 in season and drop to well below \$100 the rest of the year. The women-only Bee Charmer drops prices by \$10 to \$20 off-season, with rooms starting at just \$55. Bars are somewhat quiet in October, except on weekends, and the usually frenetic action around the pool doesn't pick up at most resorts until winter, but this is still not an entirely sleepy time to visit. If you are willing to brave the intense heat of summer, treat yourself to the Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage. The room you'd pay \$305 for in March goes for a staggeringly low \$99 in summer - not bad for one of the snazziest resorts in the country, and a very gay-friendly one at that.

Tucson, Arizona, is another desert destination you might consider visiting in fall. This queer-friendly city with a significant lesbian and feminist population is stunning, mountainous, and blessed with terrific restaurants, even if it lacks the nonstop nightlife and high profile of a Palm Springs. It used to be that most inns only dropped their prices in summer, but many now cut their rates 10 to 15 percent during the mild autumn months - especially on weekdays. Outdoors enthusiasts should consider the gay-friendly Casa Tierra B&B, which is just beyond the dramatic mountains west of the city. If you want to be closer to nightlife and restaurants, try the elegant and historic Catalina Park Inn, which is close to downtown and the University of Arizona.

CYBER NEWS

PLANETOUT TEAMS WITH BARNES AND NOBLE TO LAUNCH PRIDE BOOKS

With Gay Pride Month in full swing, the leading gay/lesbian online service and the world's largest bookseller online have teamed up to celebrate Gay Pride with a special Pride Bookstore micro-site. Pride Books, a joint project of PlanetOut (www.planetout.com or America Online Keyword: PlanetOut) and Barnesandnoble.com (www.barnesandnoble.com or AOL, Keyword: Barnes and Noble), opened on June 15. The site can be accessed through both companies' Web and AOL sites.

Along with specially selected titles of interest to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered readers, Pride Books offers live chats with gay and lesbian authors, updates on bestsellers, and searchable book reviews. Book lovers can purchase any book featured on the site directly from Barnesandnoble.com at discount prices — 30 percent off all hardcovers and 20 percent off all paperbacks in stock.

HOT SPOT

Call it gay-ol. When he decided that mainstream online services were too restrictive and gay sites and BBSes too narrowly focused, San Francisco entrepreneur Andy Kramer developed www.gay.net, the most ambitious gay service on the Web. With links to dozens of gay and lesbian political, health and news sites—as well as erotica, uncensored chat rooms and even a matchmaking service—you could spend half the night surfing and find only half of what's there. The premium offerings will cost \$9.95 a month after a free 30-day trial.

Deadline for the August Newsletter will be Saturday 12 July. We cannot guarantee that material received after that date will be included in August News&Views.

THE GAY GOURMET Sogliola Alla Milanese (Filet of Sole Milanese)

1 pound sole fillets
1/4 cup flour
1 egg
2 tbsp water
2/3 cup Italian bread crumb
4 tbsp butter, divided
4 lemon wedges

Lightly coat the fish with flour. Mix egg with water. Dip fish in egg mixture and coat with bread crumb. In large skillet melt 3 tbsp butter. Add fillets as room allows and sauté over medium heat until golden on both sides, about 3 mins. Remove to platter and repeat with remaining fillets and butter. Serve with lemon wedges. Four servings.

LESBIAN & GAY TEENS TODAY - (FIRST OF TWO PARTS)

Sex may be power, but there's nothing empowering about being homeless, hungry, and destitute because your parents discovered you kissing your girlfriend (boyfriend). The way American society is set up now, the direct consequence of being lesbian/gay can be, extreme, life-threatening economic impoverishment.

Thousands of lesbian & gay teens across the country are experiencing this phenomenon as we speak. According to statistics, nearly two million young queers who come out to their parents this year will be kicked out of their homes. Anecdotal evidence says, moreover, that a young lesbian who leaves home will drop, instantaneously, to the poorest class in society regardless of her ethnicity, her class background, or whether she grew up in a rural or urban environment. With no job skills, savings, or funds for education, she'll stay that way. Although support groups for lesbian & gay youth have exploded across the country, what the gay community refuses to admit is that struggling queers under 25 don't need conscious raising if they are to survive—they need money.

Maxine Sedgewick, for example, didn't need any hand holding for her queer sensibility. She knew she was gay when she was 12 and came out to her family and her high school when she was 17. "My parents were really mad that I had come out when I did," she recalls. "They said I should have waited until later, when I wasn't associated with them. They said I was in a phase, I just wanted attention, and that I wasn't a real lesbian. My dad wouldn't talk to me for a week after I came out, and then he raped me. He said I didn't love him anymore since I was gay."

Sedgewick moved out immediately and lived with her boss until she finished high school and entered college. After completing one year of college, she tried to return home, but feared for her safety. After living out of her car for a couple of weeks, Sedgewick began working as a stripper to pay for an apartment. She tried unsuccessfully to go back to college once. Today, at 20, Sedgewick works as a call girl in New York. Although she works less and makes more money than she ever did dancing, she suffers from chronic depression. She dreams of going back to school again, but fears re-entering the mainstream. "This profession takes a huge toll on me. I'd like to change professions, but now my perception of human nature is so skewed because of what I've done."

Unfortunately, Sedgewick's story is not an isolated case, nor is she merely a victim of circumstance. Sedgewick's initial homelessness, her difficulty finding a job that would meet her most basic needs, her decision to drop out of school, and her involvement in the sex industry—all of these experiences are economic difficulties endemic to a generation of teenage lesbians & gays who dare to practice sexual self-determination in a society that punishes homosexuals. In fact, Sedgewick's story isn't unusual, it's typical.

Like Sedgewick, most gay youth's financial difficulties begin when they intentionally or accidentally come out to their families. Incredibly, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study, one in four gay and lesbian teens are forced to leave home because of a conflict over sexual orientation. As a result, according to a 1993 Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center Survey, queer kids account for over 25 percent of all homeless youth in America. (The estimated number of homeless youth varies; experts count between 450,000 to two million. That makes between 112,000 and 500,000 gay and lesbian homeless youth in this country.) Like Sedgewick, many gay youths are dropouts: nearly a third don't even make it through high school. And although absolutely no statistics exist for the number of unskilled lesbians who enter the sex industry after leaving home, for young gay males, the figure is a whopping 50 percent.

Because families are the principle means by which youth in our society are supported, a child or teen whose family stops providing for her/him essentially falls through society's cracks. Unbelievably, parents or caretakers may decide to withdraw their support at any time with no real threat of recourse from the government or their child. Whether their child is an abandoned minor (also known as a "throwaway") or a runaway, caretakers are not held responsible for their child once they decide to end the relationship. Only the most flagrant, public neglect or abuse will cause a government agency to make sure the family pays for its children's food, clothing, and housing.

Significantly enough, in all states teens have a legal right to food, housing, and clothing at their parents' expense until they're 18, regardless of whether they've told their parents they're gay. However, almost no teens are empowered with this information. When I called, the staffers for the National Runaway Switchboard had never heard of such a law. After I told them I was a runaway gay kid, they advised me to obtain legal emancipation, a process that would relieve my parents of their financial obligations. The only other option I was given was to sue my parents for a divorce, but I was assured that my chances for success were close to nonexistent, especially because I'm gay.

A youth made poor as a result of coming out to her/his parents, will also find little encouragement from other governmental programs. This is because foster care and other social assistance programs for youths are structured to account for a minuscule, "ideal" population. In this country, in fact, if every single child in foster care were queer, that would still only account for 19 percent of the total population of gay youth estranged from their parents. Furthermore, whatever the program, money is consistently, dispersed through the hands of adults, a process that involves its own risks.

[Ed. Note: This article was written by Athena Douris and has been reprinted with permission from *Girlfriends*, a national magazine featuring culture, politics & sexuality from a lesbian perspective. For free sample copy call 1-800-GRL-FRND]

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

FREEDOM OF THE SOUL

So far down but a whisper can you hear
 beneath the darkness and clouded sky's
 deeply imbedded surrounded like twine
 Freedom is calling calling within
 untouched waters the giant does sleep
 the beat from the galley call out in despair
 our souls are crying and craving for care
 But onward we march as the trumpets they blare
 running and pounding around as we go
 like horses and pistons on a merry go round
 listen and hear the voice of your soul
 Freedom is calling calling within
 nature will nurture her voice can be heard
 trip roar of the lion hear the hoofs of the herd
 pain and sorrow a pool of tears
 searching prodding all out of fear
 As a relic lies still the fragments remain
 the call for the soul was all in vain
 but alas from the fires and orangey flames
 like a phoenix rising the soul has been saved
 to this we shall wait when the voice is now clear
 Freedom is calling calling within
 voices from the valley pages at dawn
 consciously flowing rivers of thought
 To tend to my soul is to live life in full
 no matter where I be my soul will be free
 to differ and travel on paths unpathed
 wrapped up in blankets with candles at bay
 mirror images reach out to be heard
 adhere to it's calling avoid the abyss
 like a statue in waters symbolic for all
 we've jumped many hurdles when it was easier to fall
 Freedom is calling calling within
 to my family and friends and to all who will hear
 Freedom of the soul is a manifestation of life.

Copyright 1996 by Raffaele Faugno

[Ed. Note: Raffaele was born in England and moved to America nine years ago. At 13 he dropped out of school and become a jockey. While successful in his pursuit, by the time he was 16 he had literally outgrown his position. Moving to America he continued working with race horses and trainers. Currently he buys and sells race horses. He resides in Stamford where he is both a student and part-time teacher of the taekwondo style of martial arts.]

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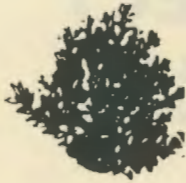
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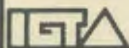
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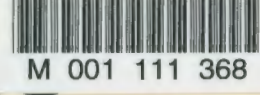
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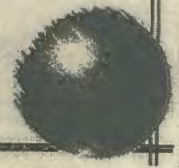
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WHERE ARE WE? The Triangle Community Center Inc. is located at 25 Van Zant Street in Norwalk. From I-95, take Exit 16 and go south (from Stamford, turn right; from New Haven, turn left). Continue south under the railroad bridge and turn right on Van Zant St. (Route 136). 25 Van Zant is a large condominium office building on the right. TCC is in Suite 7-C on the ground floor, Tel. (203) 853-0600.

NEWS & VIEWS

Calendar

July, 1997

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	30 Women's Rap 7:30	1 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Lesbian Lit Group 7:30	2 P-FLAG 7:45	3 Men's Rap 7:30 Oral History 7:30	4 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	5
6 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	7 Women's Rap 7:30	8 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Lesbian Political Action Grp 7:30	9 Bi Rap Grp 7:30 TCC Board 7:30	10 Men's Rap 7:30	11 Out & About 6:30-8 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	12
13 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	14 Women's Rap 7:30	15 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Fundraising/Spec Events Comm 7:30	16	17 Mens' Rap 7:30 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex- spouses 7:30	18 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	19 TCC Friendraiser, John & Roland's, Bridgeport 5- 9pm
20 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 TCC Movie Night, Sono Cinema, 7:30pm	21 Women's Rap 7:30	22 HIV couns 3:30-6:30	23 Bi Rap Grp 7:30 TCC Board 7:30	24 Men's Rap 7:30	25 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	26
27 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	28 Women's Rap 7:30	29 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Kite Flying TCC 7:00 pm	30	31 Men's Rap 7:30	1 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	2
3 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	4 Women's Rap 7:30	5 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Lesbian Lit Group 7:30	6 P-FLAG 7:45	7 Men's Rap 7:30 Oral History 7:30	8 Out & About 6:30-8 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	9

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

GROUPS MEETING AT OR SPONSORED BY TCC

A.A. - Don 762-9964

Bi Rap Group - Peter 838-2806; Robin 358-8391

Connecticut Business Guild - 225-6464

40+ Womens Group - Judy 227-5566

Free Association of Fairfield County - John 268-8858 x304

Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881; John 926-8971

Gmosaic (People of Color) - not currently active call TCC 853-0600

Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Christine, 847-8476

Lesbian Pot Lucks - Judy 227-7162

Out & About (Gen.X Group) - Jen 736-6417 or Dan 838-2367

OutSpoken (Youth) - Barb 259-8171; Dan 227-1755;

Doug 838-2367

Political Action Group - Michele, 438-4465; Charlie, 226-8652

P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) -

Joan 544-8724; Lester 322-5380; Belinda 855-1203

P-FLAG Spouses & Ex Spouses Group - Joan 544-8724

Triangle Bowling League (Circle Lanes, Fairfield) - Lisa 333-

3113; Roseann 931-8789

Women's Rap Group - Linda 866-4598; Charlie 226-8652

All meetings are held at the Center and in the evening unless otherwise noted. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated with your participation in activities to help support the Center.

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